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ISSUED: MAY 1991

PENNSYLVANIA'S

LABOR FORCE

..... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

APRIL 1991 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pennsylvania's joblessness decreased in April, as the statewide rate of unemployment fell to 7.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from 7.4 percent in March.**
- **Nonfarm jobs increased by 31,100 in April to a total of 5,157,400. They were about 10,000 below their level of April 1990.**

In March 1991 . . .

- **Average weekly earnings of production workers in Pennsylvania manufacturing industries rose to $452.65, reflecting a 0.1 hour rise from February in the average workweek and a four cent gain in average hourly pay.**
- **The total number of initial claims fell from February. Weeks claimed in March rose, but their average weekly volume dropped.**
- **Unadjusted unemployment rates fell in half of Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties.**
- **All fifteen of Pennsylvania's major labor market areas had higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates than in February .**

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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert P. Casey, Governor

Department of Labor and Industry Bureau of Research and Statistics

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Pennsylvania's Labor Force . . . A Monthly Statistical Analysis

is published monthly by the Bureau of Research and Statistics.
Focusing on economic information and analysis, the publication is intended for a variety of users from business leaders, government administrators and planners to the general public.

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Inquiries can also be directed to Labor Market Analysts located throughout Pennsylvania.

The following is a list of Analysts and the counties they serve.

Analyst	Phone Number	Counties Served
Edward Murray	(215)560-1977 Philadelphia	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties in PA; Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in NJ
Kenneth Shockley	(215)378-4314 Reading	Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne, Schuylkill, Berks Counties in PA; Warren County, NJ
James Mowad	(717)963-3443 Scranton	Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Wyoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga
Fred Schneider Larry Baugher	(717)771-1272 York	Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, Lancaster, Adams, York, Franklin, Fulton
Glenn Lynn	(717)327-3504 Williamsport	Centre, Lycoming, Potter, Juniata, Mifflin, Clinton, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union
William Findley Debra Nicholson	(814)533-2213 Johnstown	Blair, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Clearfield, Jefferson, Huntingdon, Elk, Cameron, Greene
William Ceriani Roberta Wilson	(412)565-5350 Pittsburgh	Beaver, Allegheny, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland, Butler, Indiana, Armstrong, Lawrence
Carol Patterson	(814)871-4298 Erie	Erie, Mercer, McKean, Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren

CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

Pennsylvania's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Edged Down from 7.4 percent in March to 7.1 percent in April. The national rate also fell, from 6.8 percent to 6.6 percent. This suggests that the worst of the recession may be behind us.

Data, made available through the Current Population Survey of households and released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, show April's unemployment in Pennsylvania down 10,000 to 423,000. This represents a break in a series of sizeable recessionary increases. The statewide jobless rate was still above the 5.6 percent in April 1990.

Employment, seasonally adjusted, was up by 148,000 to 5,537,000 in April. This gain, which far exceeded the decline among the unemployed, pushed the statewide labor force to its highest level on record, 5,960,000. Compared to April 1990, employment showed a loss of 58,000.

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

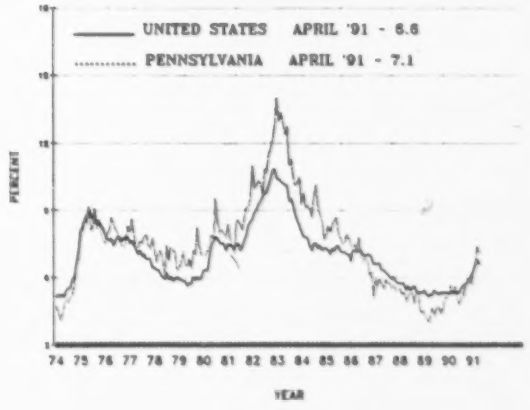

TABLE 1
TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT
IN PENNSYLVANIA
(All persons in thousands)

RESIDENT DATA	APR. 1991	MAR. 1991	APR. 1990	NET CHANGE FROM MAR. 1991	NET CHANGE FROM APR. 1990
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,960	5,822	5,930	138	30
Employment	5,537	5,389	5,595	148	-58
Unemployment	423	433	335	-10	88
Rate of Unemployment (%)	7.1	7.4	5.6	-0.3	1.5
UNADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,911	5,797	5,878	114	33
Employment	5,507	5,359	5,562	148	-55
Unemployment	404	438	315	-34	89
Rate of Unemployment (%)	6.8	7.6	5.4	-0.8	1.4

Resident employment not adjusted for seasonality was 5,507,000 in April, up by 148,000 from March and by 75,000 from February. This compares favorably with preliminary results from our survey of employers which showed a gain of 52,000 jobs over the two-month period, including 31,000 in April found especially in construction and services. Retail trade jobs increased by only a small fraction of their usual April rise.

Among the eleven largest states for which seasonally adjusted data are available, Pennsylvania's 7.1 percent rate of unemployment in April ranked sixth highest, down from fifth in March. Eight states, including Pennsylvania, had unemployment rate decreases over the month while rates rose in three states. April rates ranged from 5.7 percent in North Carolina to 10.1 percent in Michigan.

TABLE 2
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	APR. 1991 AP/	MAR. 1991 P/	FEB. 1991	MAR. 1990	NET CHANGE TO MAR. 1991 FROM: FEB. 1991	MAR. 1990
NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	5,157.4	5,126.3	5,105.9	5,146.7	20.4	-20.4
—GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,220.7	1,206.8	1,200.4	1,258.4	6.4	-51.6
MINING	26.4	26.1	25.8	27.1	0.3	-1.0
CONSTRUCTION	219.2	203.8	198.1	211.8	5.7	-8.0
MANUFACTURING	975.1	976.9	976.5	1,019.5	0.4	-42.6
DURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	546.3	546.6	545.2	578.0	1.4	-31.4
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS		28.3	27.5	31.1	0.8	-2.8
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		18.0	18.2	20.4	-0.2	-2.4
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS		44.1	43.7	46.2	0.4	-2.1
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES		83.9	83.7	88.9	0.2	-5.0
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS		84.1	84.1	88.9	0.0	-4.8
INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY		103.3	103.9	108.4	-0.6	-5.1
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		77.1	77.0	80.9	0.1	-3.8
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT		49.4	48.2	52.8	1.2	-3.4
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS		38.6	38.9	39.8	-0.3	-1.2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING		19.8	20.0	20.6	-0.2	-0.8
NONDURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	428.8	430.3	431.3	441.5	-1.0	-11.2
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS		87.3	87.9	87.8	-0.6	-0.5
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES		1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-0.1
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS		26.5	26.4	28.4	0.1	-1.9
APPAREL AND OTHER TEXTILE PRODS.		67.2	67.6	73.0	-0.4	-5.8
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		39.1	39.2	40.2	-0.1	-1.1
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING		84.7	84.5	85.6	0.2	-0.9
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		62.7	62.5	61.8	0.2	0.9
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS		11.4	11.3	11.0	0.1	0.4
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS		41.7	42.1	42.8	-0.4	-1.1
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS		8.6	8.7	9.7	-0.1	-1.1
—SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,935.3	3,918.8	3,903.8	3,886.4	15.0	32.4
TRANSPORTATION	165.5	163.4	162.4	158.2	1.0	5.2
PUBLIC UTILITIES	104.3	104.6	104.8	104.2	-0.2	0.4
COMMUNICATIONS		51.1	51.3	49.5	-0.2	1.6
ELECTRIC, GAS AND SANITARY		53.5	53.5	54.7	0.0	-1.2
WHOLESALE TRADE	273.0	273.5	273.4	276.2	0.1	-2.7
RETAIL TRADE	895.0	892.9	887.5	891.7	5.4	1.2
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES		117.6	118.7	119.3	-1.1	-1.7
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	299.7	298.4	298.3	299.5	0.1	-1.1
FINANCE		140.6	140.5	143.7	0.1	-3.1
INSURANCE		117.3	117.6	115.5	-0.3	1.8
REAL ESTATE		40.5	40.2	40.3	0.3	0.2
SERVICES	1,479.4	1,466.9	1,459.3	1,436.1	7.6	30.8
BUSINESS SERVICES		209.1	208.9	209.3	0.2	-0.2
HEALTH SERVICES		482.5	482.0	465.3	0.5	17.2
HOSPITALS		259.9	259.4	249.6	0.5	10.3
LEGAL SERVICES		42.7	42.7	41.4	0.0	1.3
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES		171.6	170.2	170.0	1.4	1.6
SOCIAL SERVICES		107.7	107.2	102.3	0.5	5.4
OTHER SERVICES		453.3	448.3	447.8	5.0	5.5
GOVERNMENT	718.4	719.1	718.1	720.5	1.0	-1.4
FEDERAL		135.6	136.3	142.5	-0.7	-6.9
STATE		160.2	161.5	160.2	-1.3	0.0
LOCAL		423.3	420.3	417.8	3.0	5.5
—PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	1.4	0.7	1.7	1.9	-1.0	-1.2

AP/ = Advance preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/ = Preliminary data.

Jobs Rose for the Second Month in April, according to advanced preliminary data from the monthly survey of employer payrolls. Nonagricultural wage and salary jobs in Pennsylvania increased by 31,100 from March to 5,157,400 in April, but remained almost 10,000 under the year-ago level.

A close-to-normal 15,400 seasonal rise in construction jobs since March, partly offset by a drop of 1,800 in manufacturing, brought goods-producing jobs to 1,220,700. This total remained 43,900 under that of April 1990, reflecting an almost 42,000 cumulative loss of jobs in manufacturing. Service-producing sector jobs increased by 16,500 from March 1991 and by 34,000 from April 1990 to 3,935,300 this April, with most gains in service industries.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Jobs in Pennsylvania

Rose seasonally by 20,400 from February to 5,126,300 in March. Job increases in both goods-producing and service-producing industries suggest a lessening of the impact of the national recession. There were about 20,000 fewer jobs this March than a year before as gains since March 1990 in the service-producing sector were exceeded by losses from goods-producers.

The department's nonagricultural job count excludes farm workers, the self-employed, domestic workers and unpaid family workers.

Jobs within the service-producing industries rose by 15,000 to 3,918,800 in March. This was 32,400 above their level a year before and their highest March total ever.

Services jobs increased by 7,600 since February to reach 1,466,900. Up 30,800 since March 1990, this March 1991 total is its third highest level.

Among retail trade industries, 5,400 jobs were added in March to reach 892,900. This was 1,200 above the March 1990 level and the best March total on record. Wholesalers employed 100 more in March than in February, but 2,700 fewer than in March 1990.

Transportation and public utilities increased their payrolls by 800 since February and by 5,600 since March 1990.

Finance, insurance and real estate industries added a net 100 jobs since February, but lost 1,100 from March 1990 as a drop of 3,100 jobs in finance outweighed gains of 1,800 in insurance and 200 in real estate.

Government jobs increased 1,000 over February to 719,100. Losses of 700 federal and 1,300 state jobs tempered a gain of 3,000 local government jobs. A decrease of 1,400 jobs over the year was due mainly to layoffs among civilian defense and census workers.

Goods-producing industries added 6,400 jobs since February to total 1,206,800. This total, however, was 51,600 less than in March 1990.

Construction industry jobs were up 5,700 since February. They were still 8,000 fewer than in March 1990, primarily reflecting declines in general building and heavy construction.

Reversing a six-month string of manufacturing job declines, Pennsylvania's factories added a net 400 jobs to their payrolls in March as a 1,400 increase in durable goods jobs outweighed a decrease of 1,000 in nondurable goods. All but two manufacturing lines -- chemicals, and petroleum and coal products -- shared in a 42,600 decrease from March 1990.

Pennsylvania's mining industry employed 26,100 in March, up 300 from this February but down by 1,000 from March 1990.

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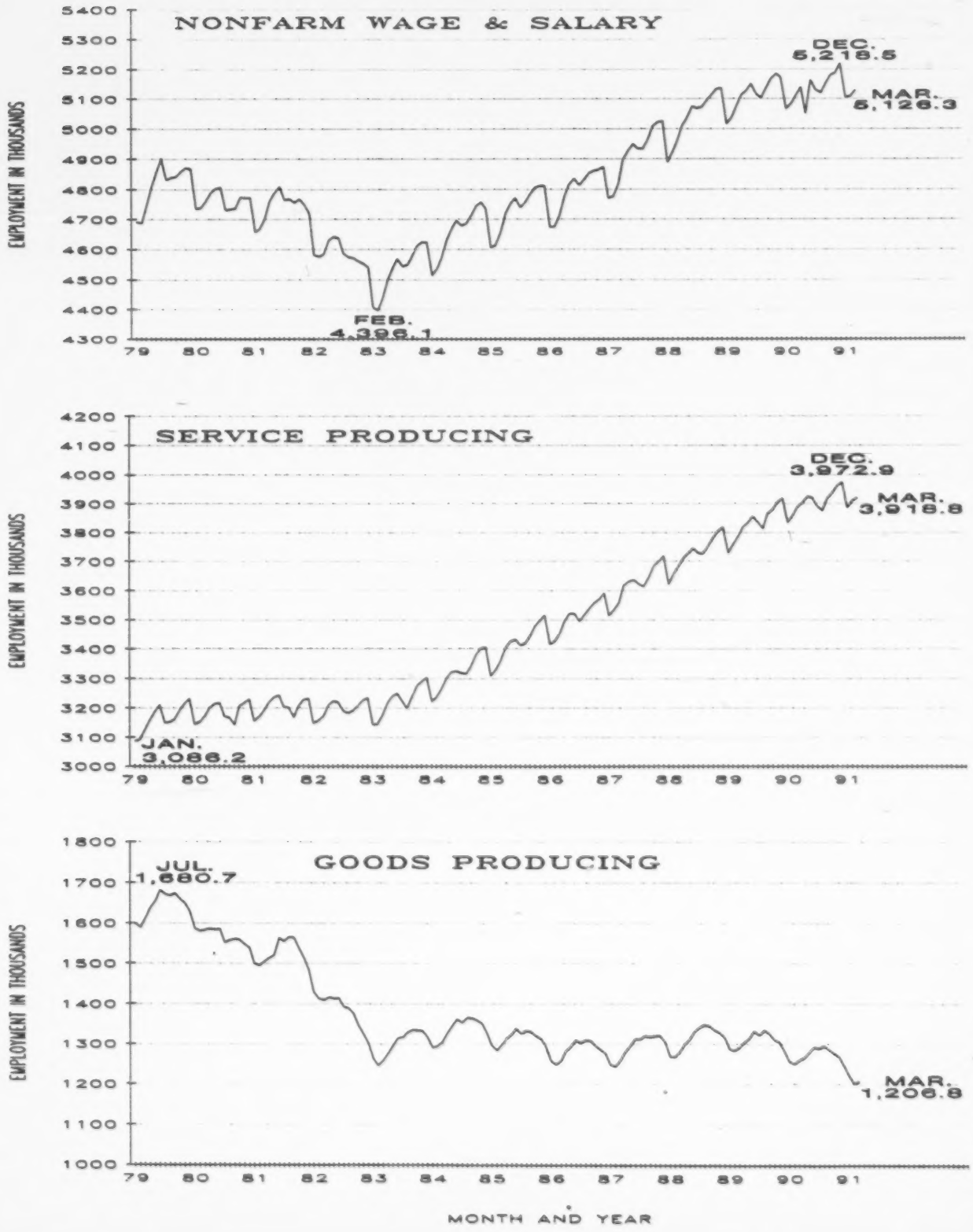
PENNSYLVANIA WAGE & SALARY JOBS
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA



HOURS AND EARNINGS

TABLE 3
PENNSYLVANIA HOURS AND EARNINGS
OF MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

INDUSTRY TITLE	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	MAR. 1991 P/	FEB. 1991	MAR. 1990	MAR. 1991 P/	FEB. 1991	MAR. 1990	MAR. 1991 P/	FEB. 1991	MAR. 1990
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES									
COAL MINING	$746.49	$738.28	$730.95	44.7	44.5	44.3	$16.70	$16.59	$16.50
NONMETALLIC MINERALS	509.33	492.32	491.25	44.6	43.3	44.7	11.42	11.37	10.99
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	452.65	449.92	444.57	40.2	40.1	40.6	11.26	11.22	10.95
DURABLE GOODS	488.63	485.80	485.94	41.2	41.1	42.0	11.86	11.82	11.57
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS	350.25	347.25	363.77	37.5	37.5	39.8	9.34	9.26	9.14
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	381.00	372.45	363.49	39.4	39.0	39.9	9.67	9.55	9.11
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODS.	480.52	470.61	468.86	41.0	40.5	41.9	11.72	11.62	11.19
PRIMARY METALS	546.81	540.05	561.99	41.3	41.1	42.9	13.24	13.14	13.10
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	454.10	455.51	453.53	40.8	41.0	41.8	11.13	11.11	10.85
INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY	522.48	516.25	526.01	42.0	41.7	43.4	12.44	12.38	12.12
ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONIC MACH.	465.55	471.06	457.21	42.4	42.4	42.1	10.98	11.11	10.86
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	579.18	583.20	571.63	42.0	42.2	42.5	13.79	13.82	13.45
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PROD.	474.37	475.36	458.38	41.0	41.3	41.0	11.57	11.51	11.18
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES	447.92	439.90	419.44	40.1	40.1	39.2	11.17	10.97	10.70
NONDURABLE GOODS	406.89	405.73	389.71	38.9	38.9	38.7	10.46	10.43	10.07
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	436.39	437.58	423.26	39.6	39.6	39.3	11.02	11.05	10.77
TOBACCO PRODUCTS	273.36	285.18	285.86	40.2	42.5	40.1	6.80	6.71	6.63
TEXTILE PRODUCTS	301.99	301.47	304.84	37.1	36.9	38.2	8.14	8.17	7.98
APPAREL AND RELATED PRODUCTS	238.74	239.42	225.78	34.5	34.8	33.4	6.92	6.88	6.76
PAPER PRODUCTS	491.99	498.95	491.21	41.8	42.5	42.9	11.77	11.74	11.45
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	459.43	448.88	443.51	39.1	38.3	38.6	11.75	11.72	11.49
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	557.61	561.88	546.00	41.8	41.9	42.0	13.34	13.41	13.00
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS	773.02	751.89	588.78	46.4	46.1	39.2	16.66	16.31	15.02
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS	409.63	404.40	415.95	40.8	40.4	42.1	10.04	10.01	9.88
LEATHER PRODUCTS	267.52	281.62	264.88	36.2	37.3	38.5	7.39	7.55	6.88
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES									
COMMUNICATIONS	572.20	577.07	546.63	38.3	38.6	39.9	14.94	14.95	13.70
ELECTRIC, GAS, & SANITARY	716.96	718.24	687.38	42.1	42.2	42.3	17.03	17.02	16.25

P/ = Preliminary Data

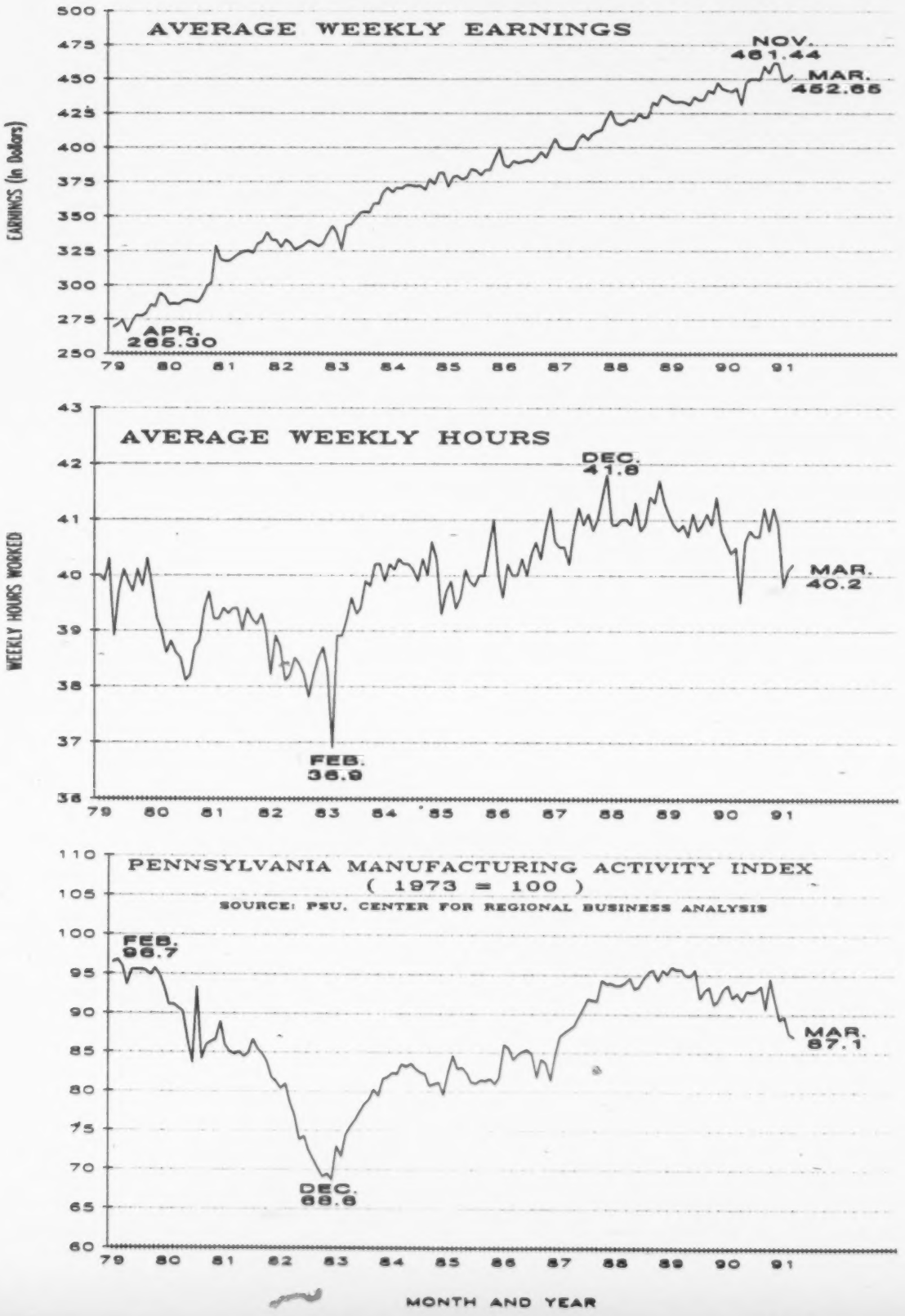
Production Workers' Average Workweek Climbed to 40.2 hours during the middle week of March. This was up one-tenth of an hour from February but remained precariously close to the 40 hour threshold below which more layoffs, rather than shorter workweeks, are made to cut back production. Coupled with a four cent increase in average hourly earnings, the longer average workweek resulted in an increase of $2.73 in average weekly earnings to $452.65.

Durable goods production workers averaged 41.2 hours during the middle week of March, up 0.1 of an hour from February. This workweek level is encouraging and a hopeful sign, considering that national durable goods orders fell sharply in March, a drop typical for this stage of the recession.

Of the ten durable goods industries, four had longer workweeks in March than in February, three shorter and three the same. Up one-half hour, stone, clay and glass products recorded the largest increase as the result of strength in the purchased glass products and miscellaneous nonmetallic minerals segments. Hopes for a quick recovery in the weak housing market pushed the furniture and fixtures workweek up 0.4 of an hour, but overall weakening caused the workweek in instruments and related products to fall 0.3 of an hour.

Workers in nondurable goods industries put in an average of 38.9 hours in March, the same as in February. The largest losses of hours occurred in the relatively small tobacco and leather industries. Gains of less magnitude in larger industries compensated for these and other losses.

PENNSYLVANIA HOURS & EARNINGS
FOR MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

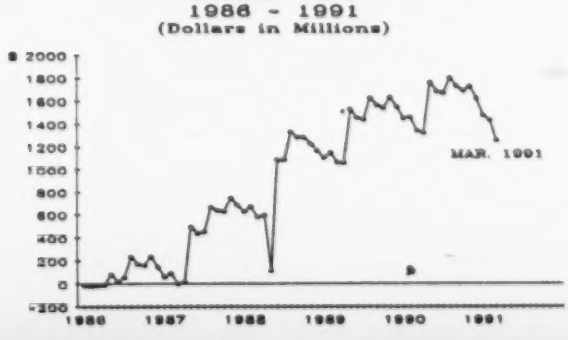
TABLE 4
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REGULAR PROGRAM
(Not seasonally adjusted)

	MAR. 1991	FEB. 1991	MAR. 1990	NET CHANGE FROM FEB. 91	NET CHANGE FROM MAR. 90
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	109,651	117,972	88,117	-8,321	21,534
Weeks Claimed	993,461	977,334	718,266	16,127	275,195
...Average Weekly Volume	236,538	244,334	163,242	-7,796	73,296
Insured Unemployment Rate	4.9%	5.0%	3.3%	-0.1	1.6
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	48,880	64,252	37,801	-15,372	11,079
Final Payments	11,193	9,639	8,029	1,554	3,164
Weeks Paid	952,117	890,791	716,840	61,326	235,277
Net Benefit Amount	$175,477,451	$164,290,509	$125,308,902	$11,186,942	$50,168,549
Average Check	$184.30	$184.43	$174.81	-$0.13	$9.49

Initial Claims Fell for the Second Month, by 8,321 from February to 109,651 in March. The total remained almost 22,000 above a year ago, marking the twenty-third straight month of over-the-year increases. Weeks claimed rose by 16,127 from February 1991 to 993,461 -- a substantial 275,195 or 38 percent over March 1990. Their average weekly volume, however, fell from February to 236,538 because of the two additional workdays in March as compared with February. This lowered the insured unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage point to 4.9 percent in March, still the highest March insured unemployment rate since 1983 when it was 7.9 percent.

The average check of $184.30 in March dipped 13 cents below February's check amount. However, a 61,326 surge in weeks paid forced net benefits to over $175 million, which was $11 million more than in February 1991 and $50 million above March 1990. This was the highest March net benefit amount since the $218 million in 1983. Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund income for March of $6 million was offset by an $11 million transfer to the General Fund of interest earned on child support payments erroneously kept in the Trust Fund. Cash reserves in the fund were reduced by almost $181 million in March to $1.3 billion, the lowest since April 1989.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND ACTIVITY



MARCH 1991

Income	$	-5,314,556
Disbursements	$	175,475,733
Cash Reserves	$	1,255,363,896

UNEMPLOYMENT ... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

Only Half of Pennsylvania's Counties Recorded Unemployment Rate Decreases

from February. Seven county rates were unchanged and 26 increased in March. Usually, almost all 67 counties record substantial rate reductions as winter loosens its grip on the state's economy. The statewide unadjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point from February to March.

Labor force contractions continue to raise questions about the health and direction of Pennsylvania's economy. Over four-fifths of the state's counties had smaller labor forces in March than both a month ago and a year ago. Discouraged workers, those who would like a job but feel that there is nothing for them in the job market, have increased substantially in the last few months.

The largest over-the-month unemployment rate increase, 4.4 percentage points, occurred in tiny Sullivan County where the closing of the county's largest manufacturer threw well over 100 people out of work. Forest County, the only Pennsylvania county smaller than Sullivan, had the steepest rate decline, 2.9 percentage points, as seasonal factors improved the local economy. However, at 12.8 percent, the Forest County rate is still the fourth highest in the state. Huntingdon County, at 14.3 percent, had the highest rate. Chester County, at 4.9 percent, had the state's lowest rate for the eighth consecutive month.

All 67 counties had higher rates this March than last. Sullivan County, up 5.0 percentage points, recorded the largest over-the-year rate gain. Juniata County, where the unemployment rate was already at a high level in March 1990, experienced the smallest increase – 0.5 percentage point.

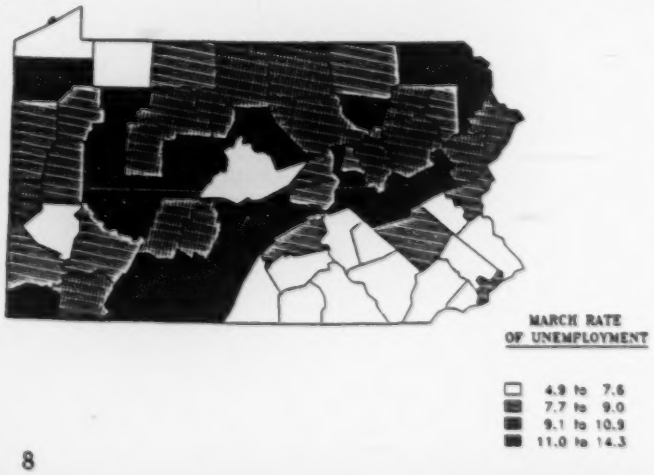


TABLE 5
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RANKED BY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted)
MARCH 1991

COUNTY	MARCH 1991 (Prel.) RANK	RATE	VOLUME	FEB. RATE	DIFF
Chester	1	4.9	9,700	5.1	-0.2
Cumberland	2	5.0	5,300	5.1	-0.1
Montgomery	3	5.3	20,100	5.3	0.0
Delaware	4	5.5	15,600	5.3	0.2
Allegheny	5	5.7	36,700	5.9	-0.2
Dauphin	5	5.7	7,500	5.6	0.1
Lancaster	7	5.9	13,200	5.6	0.3
Centre	8	6.3	4,200	6.7	-0.4
Warren	9	6.5	1,400	6.6	-0.1
York	10	6.8	12,300	6.3	0.5
Adams	11	6.9	2,700	6.2	0.7
Lehigh	12	6.9	10,200	6.8	0.1
Lebanon	13	7.2	4,600	6.8	0.4
Bucks	14	7.5	22,300	7.4	0.1
Franklin	14	7.5	4,400	7.3	0.2
Erie	16	7.6	10,100	7.7	-0.1
Butler	17	7.7	5,800	8.0	-0.3
Berks	18	7.8	13,400	7.8	0.0
Bradford	18	7.8	2,500	7.6	0.2
Northampton	18	7.8	9,100	7.8	0.0
Washington	21	7.9	7,300	8.1	-0.2
Westmoreland	21	7.9	13,700	8.3	-0.4
Philadelphia	23	8.1	57,900	7.7	0.4
Lackawanna	24	8.2	8,800	8.4	-0.2
Lawrence	25	8.3	3,900	8.2	0.1
Mercer	25	8.3	4,300	1.6	0.7
Montour	27	8.5	700	6.5	2.0
McKean	28	8.6	1,800	8.5	0.1
Venango	29	8.8	2,200	8.5	0.3
Perry	30	8.9	1,900	9.2	-0.3
Snyder	30	8.9	1,700	10.5	-1.6
Union	30	8.9	1,500	8.7	0.2
Luzerne	33	9.1	14,300	9.3	-0.2
Columbia	34	9.5	3,000	10.7	-1.2
Lycoming	35	9.6	5,700	9.9	-0.3
Wyoming	36	9.7	1,300	9.7	0.0
Elk	37	10.0	1,700	9.4	0.6
Tioga	38	10.1	1,900	10.7	-0.6
Blair	39	10.2	6,200	10.2	0.0
Potter	40	10.6	800	10.7	-0.1
Cambria	41	10.7	6,800	10.3	0.4
Pike	41	10.7	1,400	10.6	0.1
Fayette	43	10.8	6,400	11.1	-0.3
Beaver	44	10.9	6,500	11.4	-0.5
Cameron	44	10.9	300	9.9	1.0
Jefferson	44	10.9	2,200	11.0	-0.1
Monroe	44	10.9	5,400	10.5	0.4
Crawford	48	11.0	4,300	10.1	0.9
Schuylkill	48	11.0	7,900	11.0	0.0
Carbon	50	11.1	2,900	10.9	0.2
Armstrong	51	11.2	3,200	11.9	-0.7
Northumberland	51	11.2	5,400	11.3	-0.1
Sullivan	51	11.2	400	6.8	4.4
Susquehanna	54	11.3	2,000	11.5	-0.2
Indiana	55	11.8	4,100	12.1	-0.3
Mifflin	55	11.8	2,600	12.1	-0.3
Somerset	55	11.8	3,900	11.3	0.5
Clarion	58	12.1	2,100	13.4	-1.3
Greene	58	12.1	1,600	12.1	0.0
Bedford	60	12.3	2,700	13.8	-1.5
Fulton	60	12.3	800	13.9	-1.6
Juniata	60	12.3	1,200	14.0	-1.7
Wayne	60	12.3	2,500	12.7	-0.4
Forest	64	12.8	200	15.7	-2.9
Clearfield	65	12.9	4,500	13.3	-0.4
Clinton	66	14.2	2,200	13.8	-1.6
Huntingdon	67	14.3	2,800	14.4	-0.1

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR MARKET AREAS

TABLE 6
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME AND RATE
BY MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA IN PENNSYLVANIA
(Seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

AREA	MARCH 1991 * UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	MARCH 1991 * UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%	FEBRUARY 1991 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	FEBRUARY 1991 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%	MARCH 1990 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	MARCH 1990 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%
UNITED STATES	8,572.0	6.8	8,158.0	6.5	6,563.0	5.3
PENNSYLVANIA	433.0	7.4	399.0	6.7	309.0	5.2
LABOR MARKET AREA						
ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA	24.5	7.3	23.0	6.8	18.5	5.5
ALTOONA MSA	6.1	9.9	5.6	9.0	4.1	6.6
BEAVER COUNTY PMSA	6.3	10.6	6.0	9.9	4.8	7.9
ERIE MSA	9.6	7.2	9.0	6.6	7.4	5.5
HARRISBURG-LEB-CARLISLE MSA	19.1	5.8	17.6	5.3	13.4	4.0
JOHNSTOWN MSA	10.3	10.4	9.0	9.1	7.4	7.5
LANCASTER MSA	13.5	6.0	12.5	5.5	9.1	3.9
PHILADELPHIA PMSA	162.3	6.7	149.2	6.1	107.1	4.3
PITTSBURGH PMSA	61.5	6.2	57.8	5.8	47.4	4.7
READING MSA	12.7	7.4	12.6	7.2	8.5	4.8
SCRANTON--WILKES-BARRE MSA	32.2	9.4	30.9	8.4	24.8	6.7
SHARON MSA	4.0	7.6	3.6	6.8	2.4	4.6
STATE COLLEGE MSA	4.3	6.4	4.1	6.0	3.6	5.3
WILLIAMSPORT MSA	5.5	9.2	5.0	8.3	4.1	6.7
YORK MSA	14.6	6.6	13.7	6.1	11.3	5.0

*Preliminary data

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Increased in all 15 of Pennsylvania's major labor market areas during March. This is contrary to expectations for this time of the year, when outdoor activities normally pick up in most areas of the state. This pickup usually decreases unemployment by providing jobs not only in the construction, services, and agricultural sectors, but also in other segments of the economy, most notably the retail trades. However, the effects of this phenomenon have been minimized by the current recession and resident employment (not seasonally adjusted) actually decreased in every major area over the month. Thus, there was an increase in seasonally adjusted unemployment. Were it not for the fact that many workers or would-be workers left the labor force, these unemployment figures would be even worse.

The highest March seasonally adjusted unemployment rates occurred in the Beaver County Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) and the Johnstown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), 10.6 percent and 10.4 percent, respectively. Normally, these areas have the highest rates in the state. Both areas in the past were heavily dependent on the primary steel industry and never fully recovered from the last (1981-82) recession. The lowest March unemployment rate, 5.8 percent, was registered in the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA. This is not surprising as state capitals are usually not affected by recessions as much as most other areas.

All 15 major labor market areas had higher unemployment rates this March than last. The Altoona MSA registered the largest year-to-year gain, 3.3 percentage points, while the State College MSA, up 1.1 percentage points, the smallest.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS

TABLE 7
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
MARCH 1991 --- PRELIMINARY
(DATA NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, VOLUME IN THOUSANDS)

SDA NO.	COUNTIES	LABOR FORCE	EMP.	UNEMP.	RATE(%)
01	Erie	132.5	122.4	10.1	7.6
02	Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren	105.5	95.2	10.3	9.8
03	City of Pittsburgh	173.1	160.0	13.1	7.6
04	Allegheny County minus City of Pittsburgh	474.1	450.5	23.6	5.0
05	Beaver	59.1	52.6	6.5	10.9
06	Armstrong, Butler, Indiana	139.2	126.0	13.2	9.5
07	Fayette, Westmoreland	233.1	213.0	20.1	8.6
08	Greene, Washington	105.8	96.9	8.9	8.4
09	Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter	102.9	91.6	11.3	10.9
10	Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset	206.1	182.8	23.3	11.3
11	Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder, Union	230.4	209.5	20.8	9.0
13	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming	84.5	76.5	8.0	9.5
14	Lackawanna	107.2	98.4	8.8	8.2
15	Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne	108.4	96.3	12.1	11.2
16	Luzerne, Schuylkill	229.3	207.1	22.2	9.7
17	Philadelphia	719.2	661.3	57.9	8.1
18	Bucks	297.9	275.6	22.3	7.5
19	Montgomery	380.0	359.9	20.1	5.3
20	Delaware	284.5	268.9	15.6	5.5
21	Chester	195.8	186.2	9.7	4.9
22	Lehigh, Northampton	265.8	246.5	19.3	7.3
23	Berks	172.2	158.7	13.4	7.8
24	Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry	334.3	313.8	20.5	6.1
25	Lancaster	222.1	208.9	13.2	5.9
26	York	181.1	168.8	12.3	6.8
27	Adams, Franklin	98.2	91.1	7.1	7.2
28	Lawrence, Mercer	98.9	90.7	8.2	8.3
29	Montour, Northumberland	56.0	49.9	6.1	10.8
	PENNSYLVANIA - TOTAL	**5797.0**	**5359.0**	**438.0**	**7.6**

A Service Delivery Area is a geographical planning region defined by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPIC

EXTENDED BENEFITS PROGRAM "ON" IN EIGHT STATES

As of April 27, 1991, eight states -- the largest number since 1983 -- plus Puerto Rico are on extended benefits. The states are Alaska, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia. The extended benefits program, begun in 1971, provides up to 13 weeks of additional benefits beyond regular unemployment compensation benefits, with the cost shared with the federal government. The extended benefits program triggers "on" in a state whenever certain criteria are met concerning an insured unemployment rate (IUR) calculation based on a 13-week moving average of unemployment claims. Extended benefits begins when this state IUR average reaches 5.0 percent and is also at least 20 percent higher than the average of the corresponding 13-week averages of the last two years. In addition, 38 states including Pennsylvania have adopted an optional trigger which starts the program when the 13-week average IUR reaches 6.0 percent regardless of the 20 percent rule.

Pennsylvania's 13-week average rate reached a high this year of 4.92 percent on March 30 and has begun to fall. It is not expected to rise for the remainder of the year to the 5.0 percent level required to trigger "on" the extended benefits program.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Research & Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1987) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by average annual covered employment. Average annual covered employment is estimated until six months after year's end due to a lag in reporting covered employment.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employe contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Cash Reserves - Amount of funds available in the State's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits.